

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13398 250310Z

20

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

----- 045931

R 250235Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5061

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13398

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MILI MOPS VC

SUBJ: NAMYIT OPERATION ENCOUNTERS ROC GUNBOAT

HEREWITH REPEAT OF AMCONSUL BIEN HOA MESSAGE 323 FOR YOUR  
ACTION QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 323

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MILI MOPS VC

SUBJECT: NAMYIT OPERATION ENCOUNTERS ROC GUNBOAT

REFERENCE: BIEN HOA 307, 273, AND 269

1. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT NAMYIT OPERATION (REFTELS) RAN INTO  
TROUBLE WITH REPUBLIC OF CHINA (ROC) GUNBOAT 35KM NORTH OF ITS  
DESTINATION. LTC CUONG, HEAD OF OPERATION, REPORTEDLY TOLD  
DEBRIEFING SESSION AT MR3 HEADQUARTERS THAT AN ROC GUNBOAT  
ESCORTED, AT GUN POINT, MEMBERS OF OPERATION TO ROC OCCUPIED  
ISLAND NAMED THAI BINH FOR QUESTIONING. CUONG SAID THAT COLONEL  
IN CHARGE OF ROC MARINE GARRISON WANTED TO KNOW WHAT VIETNAMESE  
WERE DOING IN AREA. ACCORDING TO SOURCE WHO WAS AT DEBRIEFING,  
CUONG SAID HE TOLD ROC COLONEL HE WAS ON "TRAINING" EXERCISE  
IN ORDER TO AVOID WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN MORE THAN EMBARRASSING  
SITUATION. SOURCE ALSO TOLD US THAT ROC COLONEL, IN RATHER  
STRONG TERMS, ADVISED CUONG NOT TO REMOVE ROC FLAT ON NAMYIT  
ISLAND AS VIETNAMESE HAD DONE ONCE BEFORE.

2. CUONG APPARENTLY REFUSED TO HEED ADVICE, ELECTING INSTEAD TO  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 13398 250310Z

MAKE CONTACT WITH SUPERIORS HERE FOR INSTRUCTIONS. SOURCE TOLD

US THAT CUONG, AFTER ARRIVING ON NAMYT, RADIOED MR3 HEADQUARTERS TO RELAY HIS EXPERIENCE. A FEW HOURS AFTER INITIAL CONTACT, CUONG RECEIVED ORDERS TO REPLACE ROC FLAG WITH GVN'S.

3. THERE IS A BIT OF APPREHENSION BEING EXPRESSED IN MR3 CIRCLES ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF ROC MARINES DECIDE TO VISIT NAMYT ISLAND. WHAT CONCERNS OFFICIALS HERE IS SAFETY OF 10 FROGMEN AND CREW OF ONE SHIP WHO WERE LEFT BEHIND TO PROTECT GVN'S INTERESTS.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE FEELING THAT OPERATION IS REALTED TO OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION POSSIBILITIES. SOURCE REPORTED THAT SPECIAL LAND SURVEYORS WHO ACCOMPANIED MEMBERS OF OPERATION BROUGHT BACK SAMPLES OF DARK AND WHITE SAND WHICH ARE NOW IN SAIGON FOR STUDY.

WALKINSHAW UNQUOTE  
MARTIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COMBAT OPERATIONS, NAVAL SHIPS, RIVERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973SAIGON13398  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** P750007-2356  
**From:** SAIGON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730710/aaaaahjw.tel  
**Line Count:** 74  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 73 BIEN HOA 307, 73 BIEN HOA 273, 73 BIEN HOA 269  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 DEC 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <06-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Dec-2001 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NAMYT OPERATION ENCOUNTERS ROC GUNBOAT  
**TAGS:** PINT, MOPS, VS  
**To:** n/a  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005